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09/586,480

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Frank Reisinger

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06/02/2005

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EXAMINER

CHARLES, DEBRA F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/586,480

Applicant(s)

REISINGER, FRANK

Examiner

Debra F. Charles

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed March 15, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to claims 1-14, the attorney's arguments do not match the claim language. While the attorney does have the "exclusively" limitation in here, it's the "serial" nature that is not well developed. In the arguments, the attorney said that the postage meter and the scale are serially connected and that the switch disconnects the meter and connects the scale while the prior art did it in parallel. However, claim 1 calls for a "serially operating" modem. Most modems are serial communications devices, i.e. they receive or transmit data one bit at a time instead of a parallel stream of 16 bits at a time, so "serially operating" does not necessarily relate to the connection of the modem to the scale or meter, it's the normal property of the modem. Similarly, to "selectively serially conduct" data transfer sounds again like the nature of a modem and doesn't seem to relate to the switch and how it wires the scale and meter to the modem. The examiner has added a new reference to highlight an existing solution to the same problem the inventor put forth.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4,6-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Simionescu et al.(U.S.PAT. 005963650A) and Brookner et al.(US 5737426A). The examiner is using U.S.PAT. 6298337 A also Kubatski et al. as the translation for Kubatzki et al. (EP 0805 419 A2) and is using the line and column numbers from the Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) reference.

Re claim 1: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose an arrangement for loading rate table data comprising:

a postage meter(Abstract, col. 4, lines 10-50);

an external scale having a postage calculator(col. 1, line 40-col. 2, line 15);

receives rate table data from an external source(col. 10, lines 5-20, Fig. 4b,esp. item 2037).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose(s) the claimed invention except a switchover module connected between said postage meter, said scale and said modem and having a control line for setting a switching state of said switchover module and the switchover module. However, in Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively control the flow of data into the postage meter or scale.

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Brookner et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except a serially-operating modem which to selectively serially conduct downloading of data directly from said external source via the modem. However, in col. 11, line 15-col. 12, line 25, col. 13, lines 10-

25, Table 1, col. 15, lines 60-67, col. 18, lines 45-60, col. 19, lines 15-55, thereof Simionescu et al. discloses serial communications, modem capability, downloading data to bypass a bottleneck feature. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Brookner et al. based on the teachings of Simionescu et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively work around a known bottleneck in the computer data download process.

Re claim 2: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose a postage meter machine containing said postage meter(Abstract, col. 4, lines 10-50). Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except wherein said switchover module is contained within said postage meter machine. However, in the Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming

message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a switchover module that controls data flow into peripheral devices since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 181 F.2d 1019, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950).

Re claim 3: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose postage meter machine(Abstract, col. 4,lines 40-50) comprises an input/output control module(Fig. 4b, esp. item 209a) containing a modem interface and a scale

interface(col. 1, line 45-col. 2, line 26), and wherein said postage calculator comprises a postage calculator interface(col. 2, lines 915), connected between said modem interface(col. 1, line 45-col. 2, line 26, col. 10, lines 5-20, Fig. 4b,esp. item 2037), said scale interface and said postage calculator interface and said scale comprising means for supplying a signal to switch to a switching state wherein said postage calculator, via said postage calculator interface, directly receives said rate table data (Fig. 4b,esp. item 2037).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except switchover module and said control line.

However, in the Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are

sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively control the flow of data into the postage meter or scale.

Re claim 4: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose a first contact group connected to said modem, and connected to said modem interface(col. 1, line 45-col. 2, line 26, col. 10, lines 5-20, Fig. 4b,esp. item 2037) to said postage calculator interface and to said scale interface, for operating said to set said switching state dependent on a signal(col. 1, lines 45-col. 2, line 10).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except switchover module and a driver connected to said control line. However, in the Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to

the EIU are silent. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively control the flow of data into the postage meter or scale. Further, first set of four lines, a second contact group connected and second set of four lines, first and second contact groups are old and well-known in the peripherals art because the various groupings of lines effectively enable connecting with multiple peripheral devices.

Re claim 6: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except control line is also connected to said calculator interface, which supplies said signal on said control line to set said switching state of said switchover module. However, in the Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any

responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port.

The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent.. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively control the flow of data into the postage meter or scale using a line with toggle responsiveness that ensures proper data flow throughout the system.

Re claim 7: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose scale comprises a keyboard having(Fig. 2, item 2), said keyboard being at least indirectly connected(Fig. 2, item 2,4,22,23,i.e. personal computer inherently

has keyboard built in) to said postage calculator interface to cause said rate table data to be directly supplied to said postage calculator(col. 1, line 45-67, col. 10, lines 5-20, Fig. 4b,esp. item 2037).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except an actuatable selection key and actuation of said selection key causing said signal to be generated on said control line for setting said switching state of said switching module. However, in the Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 i.e. a PC inherently has a keyboard thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand

the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is Brookner et al. enhances the features of Kubatzki et al. to make the system more effective and efficient in handling the control line of the switchover module.

Re claim 8: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Brookner et al. and Simionescu et al. disclose the claimed invention. Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) further disclose a postage calculator operates with existing rate table data and wherein said rate table data from said external source(col. 10, lines 5-20, Fig. 4b,esp. item 2037) comprise updated rate table data, and wherein said postage calculator includes a first memory area wherein said existing rate table data are stored and a second memory area wherein said updated rate table data are stored after actuation of said selection key,

said updated rate table data including conversion data identifying an effective date of the updated rate table data, and said postage calculator having a third memory area in which said conversion data are stored (Abstract, i.e. "memories" means more than one memory, col. 6, lines 24-col. 7, line 30) and said postage calculator automatically replacing said existing rate table data with said updated rate table data at a time of first use of said postage calculator following said effective date(col. 1, lines 45-65,i.e. adding an effective date to the downloaded information is old and well-known in computer arts, col. 4, lines 10-50).

Re claim 9: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Brookner et al. and Simionescu et al. disclose the claimed invention. Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) further disclose updated rate table data further include data representing additional information, and wherein said postage calculator has a fourth memory area for storing said data representing additional information (Abstract, i.e. "memories" means more than one memory, col. 6, lines 24-col. 7, line 30, col. 7, line 55col. 8,line 11).

Re claim 10: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Brookner et al. and Simionescu et al. disclose the claimed invention. Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805

419 A2) further disclose said scale comprises a clock/date module connected to said postage calculator, and wherein said postage calculator is programmed to automatically compare a date supplied by said clock/date module with said conversion data and to replace said existing rate table data with said updated rate table data when said conversion data equal or follow said date supplied by said clock/date module(col. 1, lines 40-57, ,i.e. adding an effective date to the downloaded information is old and well-known in computer arts, col. 6, lines 5-57).

Re claim 11: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except switchover module is disposed externally of said postage meter machine. However, in Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol,

are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent.. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the switchover function by placing it outside of the machine to which it sends data.

Re claim 12: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Brookner et al and Simionescu et al. disclose the claimed invention. Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) further disclose said scale with said postage calculating module(col. 1, line 40-col. 2, line 15) is external from said postage meter machine(Abstract, col. 4, lines 10-50).

Re claim 14: Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Brookner et al. and Simionescu et al. disclose the claimed invention. Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) disclose in said postage calculator(col. 1, line 25-col. 2, line 10) are combined and are both disposed externally from said postage meter machine(Abstract, col. 4, lines 10-50).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except said switchover module. However, in Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports

are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent.. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to pro-actively control the flow of data from one point to another point.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Simionescu et al., and Brookner et al. as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Rothstein (U.S.PAT. 4485439 A).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Simionescu et al., and Brookner et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except said postage calculator interface comprises an RS-232 interface, and wherein each of said first and second sets of four lines comprises a TXD transmission line, an RXD reception

line, a DTR reception readiness line, and a DSR transmission readiness line. However, in the Abstract, col. 1, lines 40-50, col. 4, lines 55-67, col. 6, lines 45-67 thereof, Rothstein discloses RS-232 interface, TXD, RXD, DTR and DSR lines that are used to connect equipment. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Simionescu et al., and Brookner et al. based on the teachings of Rothstein. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively control the flow of data into the postage meter or scale with various different transmission lines to permit flexibility in transmission. Although Rothstein does not mention a postage calculator, it does indicate various electronic devices are connected to the RS-232, TXD, RXD, DTR and DSR interfaces and lines.

6. Claim 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Simionescu et al., and Brookner et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Ezzet et al.(U.S. PAT. 5414817 A).

Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2), Simionescu et al., and Brookner et al. disclose(s) the claimed invention except said switchover module. However,

in Abstract, Fig. 1, items D20, D31, D32, 12, and col. 2, line 60- col. 3, line 15 thereof, Brookner et al. disclose(s) the EIU is programmed to operate in three communication modes which are enabled in response to the appropriate authorization code. A passive routing mode in which the software programmed into PROM of the EIU instructs the micro controller to route any incoming message to be outputted without modification at the meter port. When the EIU operates in passive routing mode, any responses from the meter, which in the native mode is provided using an echoplex protocol, are routed by the EIU micro controller and are sent to the second and fourth ports which are principally intended to be associated with a scale, however the fourth may have other devices connected thereto. Since, only the echoplex scale can understand the response, and the respective ports are connected to different pins of the micro controller, the micro controller is able to discriminate based on the destination port protocol between echoplex scale devices attached to the second port and route outgoing messages from the meter to that port. The passive routing mode operates when other intelligent devices connected to the EIU are silent.. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Kubatzki et al.(EP 0805 419 A2) and Simionescu et al. based

on the teachings of Brookner et al. The motivation to combine these references is to pro-actively control the flow of data from one point to another point. Further, as indicated in Ezzet et al. in col. 1, lines 30-55, a docking station and its inherent functionality as a modem is old and well-known in the computer art. It would be obvious to combine functional equipment in the docking station in the combination of Kubatzki et al., Simionescu et al., and Brookner et al. because such a station already contains functional equipment that interacts with the computer and combining the equipment enhances operational functionality of the equipment since the data travels only a short distance to move from one piece of equipment to the next.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (571) 272 6791. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent A. Millin can be reached on (571) 272 6747.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra F. Charles
Examiner
Art Unit 3624



VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600